### IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

MARVEL CHARACTERS, INC.,

Plaintiff,

v.

PATRICK S. DITKO, in his capacity as Administrator of the Estate of Stephen J. Ditko,

Defendant.

Civil Action No. 1:21-cv-07957

COMPLAINT FOR DECLARATORY RELIEF

Plaintiff Marvel Characters, Inc. ("MCI"), for its complaint against defendant Patrick S. Ditko ("Patrick Ditko"), alleges as follows:

#### **NATURE OF THE ACTION**

- 1. Over its long history, MCI and its predecessors in interest (individually and collectively, "Marvel") have engaged numerous writers and artists to contribute to Marvel's comics. Stephen J. Ditko ("Steve Ditko"), who started working for Marvel in or around 1957, is one such artist. Marvel assigned Steve Ditko stories to illustrate, had the right to exercise creative control over his contributions, and paid him a per-page rate for his contributions. As a result, any contributions Steve Ditko made were at Marvel's instance and expense, rendering his contributions work made for hire, to which the Copyright Act's termination provisions do not apply. Nevertheless, defendant Patrick Ditko, in his capacity as the administrator of Steve Ditko's estate, has served termination notices purportedly issued under that Act, in an invalid attempt to acquire certain rights to iconic Marvel comic book characters and stories published between 1962 and 1966.
  - 2. In virtually identical circumstances, this Court, as affirmed by the Second Circuit,

granted Marvel summary judgment, finding that all of illustrator Jack Kirby's contributions between 1958 and 1963 were done at Marvel's instance and expense and thus were works made for hire. Because termination rights do not exist for works made for hire, the Kirby heirs' termination notices—which covered many of the very same comics that Patrick Ditko's termination notices do—were held to be invalid and of no legal force or effect. *See Marvel Worldwide, Inc. v. Kirby*, 777 F. Supp. 2d 720 (S.D.N.Y. 2011), *aff'd in relevant part*, 726 F.3d 119 (2d Cir. 2013).

- 3. Similarly, the District Court for the District of Delaware held in *In re Marvel Entertainment Grp.*, 254 B.R. 817 (D. Del. 2000), that contributions by an individual similarly situated during the same period at issue here were works made for hire. There, a writer claimed that he owned certain characters during Marvel's bankruptcy proceedings. The district court rejected that claim, holding that all of the writer's work was done at Marvel's instance and expense and was thus work made for hire.
- 4. *Kirby* and *In re Marvel Entertainment* dictate the same result here. As with the artists in those cases, Marvel had the right to exercise creative control over Steve Ditko's contributions and paid him a per-page rate for his work. As with the artists in those cases, when Steve Ditko worked for Marvel, he did so with the expectation that Marvel would pay him. And as with the artists in those cases, Steve Ditko never held the copyright in the famous Marvel characters and comics on which he worked; rather, Marvel does, as evidenced by the relevant copyright registration notices themselves. Marvel thus brings this declaratory relief action, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2201, in response to Patrick Ditko's improper attempt to acquire Marvel's intellectual property.

#### **PARTIES**

- MCI is a Delaware corporation with its principal place of business in Burbank,
   California. MCI owns the intellectual property contained in the comic books and characters at issue.
- 6. Upon information and belief, Patrick Ditko is the brother of Steve Ditko and the administrator of Steve Ditko's estate.

#### **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

- 7. This is an action for declaratory relief brought under 28 U.S.C. §§ 2201, et seq., and under the Copyright Act of 1976, 17 U.S.C. §§ 101, et seq. This Court has federal question subject matter jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1338(a).
- 8. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Patrick Ditko because he claims to have any termination rights possessed by Steve Ditko in his capacity as the administrator of Steve Ditko's estate. Upon information and belief, that estate is domiciled in New York.
- 9. Upon information and belief, venue is proper in this Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(1) because Steve Ditko's estate is domiciled in this District in New York, New York. Venue is also proper in this Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(2) for the additional reason that a substantial part of the events giving rise to this action occurred in this District. Specifically, most if not all of the contributions by Steve Ditko were made in this District, and all of the comic books at issue were published in this District.

#### **ALLEGATIONS**

- 10. At all relevant times, Steve Ditko was engaged as a comic book artist and writer by Marvel in New York, New York to contribute to various comic books (the "Works").
  - 11. Any contributions Steve Ditko made were at Marvel's instance and expense.

- 12. Marvel editorial staff had the right to exercise creative control over Steve Ditko's contributions, and Marvel paid Steve Ditko a per-page rate for his contributions. When Steve Ditko worked for Marvel, he did so with the expectation that Marvel would pay him.
- 13. Steve Ditko did not obtain any ownership interest in or to any contributions he made.
- 14. Marvel registered copyrights in and to the Works, which are copyrightable subject matter under the copyright laws of the United States. The Register of Copyrights recorded the registrations, as set forth in Exhibit 1 to this complaint. Marvel has complied in all relevant respects with all laws governing copyright.
- 15. Between approximately May 28 and July 16, 2021, Patrick Ditko served four notices of termination on Marvel. Patrick Ditko claims to have a sufficient interest in the Works, as administrator of Steve Ditko's estate, to exercise purported rights of termination under the termination provisions of the Copyright Act, 17 U.S.C. § 304(c), and the regulations thereunder.
- 16. The notices specifically seek to "terminate all pre-January 1, 1978 exclusive or non-exclusive grants of the transfer or license of the renewal copyright(s) in and to" certain "illustrated comic book stor[ies]" that were allegedly "authored or co-authored" by Steve Ditko and published by Marvel between 1962 and 1966. The notices specify various effective termination dates, ranging from May 29 to July 17, 2023.
- 17. The comic book titles identified in the notices include *Amazing Spider-Man*, *Amazing Fantasy*, *Journey Into Mystery*, and *Strange Tales*. The notices purportedly terminate alleged grants of copyright interests in all characters, story elements, and "indicia" in the comic books, as well as "all material" allegedly "authored or co-authored by Stephen J. Ditko (in any and all medium(s), whenever created) that was reasonably associated with" these works and

"registered with the United States Copyright Office and/or published within the termination time window, as defined by 17 U.S.C. § 304(c), and the" purported "effective date of this Notice of Termination."

18. True and correct copies of these notices are attached hereto as Exhibits 2 through 6.

### COUNT I: ACTION FOR DECLARATORY RELIEF [As to the Validity of All Notices]

- 19. Marvel repeats and realleges each allegation contained in paragraphs 1 through 18 of this complaint as if fully set forth herein.
- 20. Patrick Ditko has served Marvel with the termination notices described above.

  On information and belief, Patrick Ditko submitted the notices for recordation with the U.S.

  Copyright Office.
- 21. The notices are invalid as a matter of law because the Works were created as works made for hire, and there are no termination rights for works made for hire. *See* 17 U.S.C. § 304(c).
- 22. The Works were made for hire because they were created at Marvel's instance and expense.
- 23. Any contributions Steve Ditko made to the Works were done at the instance of Marvel's editorial staff, who had the right to exercise creative control over Steve Ditko's contributions.
- 24. Any contributions Steve Ditko made to the Works were done at Marvel's expense because Marvel paid Steve Ditko a per-page rate for his contributions, Steve Ditko made those contributions to the Works with the expectation that Marvel would pay him, and Steve Ditko did not obtain any ownership interest in or to his contributions.

- 25. Marvel has a real and reasonable apprehension of litigation over any claim by Patrick Ditko that Marvel's exploitation of the Works after the alleged termination dates infringes Patrick Ditko's purported rights, as the administrator of Steve Ditko's estate.
- 26. There now exists between the parties an actual and justiciable controversy concerning the validity of the termination notices and the respective rights of Marvel and Patrick Ditko, as the administrator of Steve Ditko's estate.
- 27. A declaration is necessary and appropriate at this time in light of the purported effective termination dates and the ongoing exploitation of the Works and the development of new works derivative of the Works.
  - 28. Marvel has no adequate remedy at law.
- 29. Accordingly, Marvel seeks, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2201, a judgment from this Court that the notices are invalid and therefore that Marvel will not lose its copyright interests in the Works on the alleged termination dates.

#### PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Marvel prays for a judgment against Patrick Ditko as follows:

- A. For a declaration that the termination notices are invalid;
- B. For Marvel's attorneys' fees and costs incurred; and
- C. For such other and further relief as the Court deems just and equitable.

Dated: September 24, 2021 Respectfully Submitted,

#### O'MELVENY & MYERS LLP

By: /s/ Molly M. Lens

Molly M. Lens

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Attorneys for Plaintiff Marvel Characters, Inc.

<sup>\*</sup> Pro hac vice admission pending

Publication Title	Issue No.	Vol. No.	First Publication Date	© Owner	© Reg No.
Amazing Fantasy	#15	1	6/5/1962	MCI	B976775
Amazing Spider-Man	#1	1	12/10/1962	MCI	B12112
Amazing Spider-Man	#2	1	2/12/1963	MCI	B22020
Amazing Spider-Man	#3	1	4/9/1963	MCI	B32700
Amazing Spider-Man	#4	1	6/11/1963	MCI	B45564
Amazing Spider-Man	#5	1	7/9/1963	MCI	B50165
Amazing Spider-Man	#6	1	8/8/1963	MCI	B57887
Amazing Spider-Man	#7	1	9/10/1963	MCI	B63121
Amazing Spider-Man	#8	1	10/8/1963	MCI	B72284
Amazing Spider-Man	#9	1	11/12/1963	MCI	B72337
Amazing Spider-Man	#10	1	12/9/1963	MCI	B79629
Amazing Spider-Man	#11	1	1/10/1964	MCI	B86108
Amazing Spider-Man	#12	1	2/11/1964	MCI	B93262
Amazing Spider-Man	#13	1	3/10/1964	MCI	B96821
Amazing Spider-Man	#14	1	4/9/1964	MCI	B102930
Amazing Spider-Man	#15	1	5/12/1964	MCI	B112138
Amazing Spider-Man	#16	1	6/9/1964	MCI	B127533
Amazing Spider-Man	#17	1	7/9/1964	MCI	B121808
Amazing Spider-Man	#18	1	8/11/1964	MCI	B129017
Amazing Spider-Man	#19	1	9/8/1964	MCI	B136435
Amazing Spider-Man	#20	1	10/8/1964	MCI	B140632
Amazing Spider-Man	#21	1	11/10/1964	MCI	B147192
Amazing Spider-Man	#22	1	12/10/1964	MCI	B157768
Amazing Spider-Man	#23	1	1/12/1965	MCI	B162019
Amazing Spider-Man	#24	1	2/11/1965	MCI	B167575
Amazing Spider-Man	#25	1	3/11/1965	MCI	B173323

<b>Publication Title</b>	Issue No.	Vol. No.	First Publication Date	© Owner	© Reg No.
Amazing Spider-Man	#26	1	4/8/1965	MCI	B179808
Amazing Spider-Man	#27	1	5/11/1965	MCI	B190434
Amazing Spider-Man	#28	1	6/8/1965	MCI	B196230
Amazing Spider-Man	#29	1	7/8/1965	MCI	B200698
Amazing Spider-Man	#30	1	8/10/1965	MCI	B208267
Amazing Spider-Man	#31	1	9/9/1965	MCI	B215968
Amazing Spider-Man	#32	1	10/12/1965	MCI	B229417
Amazing Spider-Man	#33	1	11/11/1965	MCI	B229427
Amazing Spider-Man	#34	1	12/9/1965	MCI	B238351
Amazing Spider-Man	#35	1	1/11/1966	MCI	B241516
Amazing Spider-Man	#36	1	2/10/1966	MCI	B248224
Amazing Spider-Man	#37	1	3/10/1966	MCI	B251737
Amazing Spider-Man	#38	1	4/12/1966	MCI	B257745
The Fantastic Four Annual	#1	1	7/2/1963	MCI	A645698
Strange Tales Annual	#2	1	6/11/1963	MCI	A640416
Amazing Spider-Man Annual	#1	1	6/11/1964	MCI	A713458
Amazing Spider-Man Annual	#2	1	6/1/1965	MCI	A772745
Strange Tales	#102	1	8/9/1962	MCI	B988507
Strange Tales	#103	1	9/11/1962	MCI	B992202
Strange Tales	#104	1	10/9/1962	MCI	B999792
Strange Tales	#105	1	11/8/1962	MCI	B6037
Strange Tales	#106	1	12/10/1962	MCI	B12120
Strange Tales	#107	1	1/10/1963	MCI	B17484
Strange Tales	#108	1	2/12/1963	MCI	B22022
Strange Tales	#109	1	3/12/1963	MCI	B28143

<b>Publication Title</b>	Issue No.	Vol. No.	First Publication Date	© Owner	© Reg No.
Strange Tales	#110	1	4/9/1963	MCI	B34036
Strange Tales	#111	1	5/9/1963	MCI	B38264
Strange Tales	#112	1	6/11/1963	MCI	B45565
Strange Tales	#113	1	7/9/1963	MCI	B51854
Strange Tales	#114	1	8/8/1963	MCI	B57888
Strange Tales	#115	1	9/10/1963	MCI	B66036
Strange Tales	#116	1	10/8/1963	MCI	B66782
Strange Tales	#117	1	11/12/1963	MCI	B72341
Strange Tales	#118	1	12/9/1963	MCI	B79628
Strange Tales	#119	1	1/10/1964	MCI	B86103
Strange Tales	#120	1	2/11/1964	MCI	B93261
Strange Tales	#121	1	3/10/1964	MCI	B96828
Strange Tales	#122	1	4/9/1964	MCI	B102931
Strange Tales	#123	1	5/12/1964	MCI	B112132
Strange Tales	#124	1	6/9/1964	MCI	B127512
Strange Tales	#125	1	7/9/1964	MCI	B121798
Strange Tales	#126	1	8/11/1964	MCI	B129014
Strange Tales	#127	1	9/8/1964	MCI	B136445
Strange Tales	#128	1	10/8/1964	MCI	B140634
Strange Tales	#129	1	11/10/1964	MCI	B147181
Strange Tales	#130	1	12/10/1964	MCI	B157772
Strange Tales	#131	1	1/12/1965	MCI	B162016
Strange Tales	#132	1	2/11/1965	MCI	B167564
Strange Tales	#133	1	3/11/1965	MCI	B173315
Strange Tales	#134	1	4/8/1965	MCI	B179809
Strange Tales	#135	1	5/4/1965	MCI	B190436

Publication Title	Issue No.	Vol. No.	First Publication Date	© Owner	© Reg No.
Strange Tales	#136	1	6/8/1965	MCI	B196229
Strange Tales	#137	1	7/8/1965	MCI	B200686
Strange Tales	#138	1	8/10/1965	MCI	B208272
Strange Tales	#139	1	9/9/1965	MCI	B215981
Strange Tales	#140	1	10/12/1965	MCI	B229414
Strange Tales	#141	1	11/11/1965	MCI	B229431
Strange Tales	#142	1	12/9/1965	MCI	B238352
Strange Tales	#143	1	1/11/1966	MCI	B241519
Strange Tales	#144	1	2/10/1966	MCI	B248225
Strange Tales	#145	1	3/10/1966	MCI	B251650
Strange Tales	#146	1	4/12/1966	MCI	B257744
Strange Tales	#147	1	5/10/1966	MCI	B277438

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JUN 02 2021

#### NOTICE OF TERMINATION

#### "SPIDER-MAN"

ALAN BRAVERMAN

To: Marvel Entertainment, LLC
Marvel Worldwide, Inc.
Marvel Property, Inc.
Marvel Characters, Inc.
1290 Avenue of the Americas
New York, NY 10104
Attn: John Turitzin, Chief Cour

Attn: John Turitzin, Chief Counsel Eli Bard, Deputy Chief Counsel

The Walt Disney Company 500 South Buena Vista Street Burbank, CA 91521 Attn: Alan Braverman, General Counsel Marvel Studios, LLC
MVL Rights, LLC
MVL Development, LLC
Marvel Characters, Inc.
500 South Buena Vista Street
Burbank, CA 91521
Attn: David Galluzzi, Chief Counsel

Marvel Animation Inc. 623 Circle Seven Drive Glendale, CA 91201 Attn: Legal Department

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to Section 304(c) of the United States Copyright Act (17 U.S.C. § 304(c)) and the regulations issued thereunder by the Register of Copyrights, 37 C.F.R. § 201.10, Patrick S. Ditko, Administrator of the Estate of Stephen J. Ditko, being the person entitled to terminate copyright transfers pursuant to said statutory provisions, hereby terminates all pre-January 1, 1978 exclusive or non-exclusive grants of the transfer or license of the renewal copyright(s) in and to the illustrated comic book story published in "Amazing Fantasy Vol. 1, No. 15," authored or co-authored by Stephen J. Ditko (a.k.a. Steve Ditko), and sets forth in connection therewith the following:

1. The names and addresses of the grantees and/or successors in title whose rights are being terminated are as follows: Marvel Entertainment, LLC, Marvel Worldwide, Inc., Marvel Property, Inc., Marvel Characters, Inc., 1290 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10104; Marvel Studios, LLC, MVL Rights, LLC, MVL Development, LLC, Marvel Characters, Inc., 500 South Buena Vista Street, Burbank, CA 91521; The Walt Disney Company, 500 South Buena

Vista Street, Burbank, CA 91521; and Marvel Animation Inc., 623 Circle Seven Drive, Glendale, CA 91201. Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. Section 201.10(d), service of this notice is being made by First Class Mail, postage pre-paid to the above grantees or successors at the addresses shown.

- 2. The copyrighted work (the "Work") to which this Notice of Termination applies is the illustrated comic book story published and embodied in "*Amazing Fantasy* Vol. 1, No. 15," which was authored or co-authored by Stephen J. Ditko (a.k.a. Steve Ditko), and registered with the U.S. Copyright Office by Atlas Magazines, Inc. on June 5, 1962 under Copyright Registration No. B976775, renewed on November 20, 1990 under Copyright Renewal Registration No. RE0000497761, and includes all the characters, story elements, and/or indicia appearing therein.
- 3. The grant and/or transfer to which this Notice of Termination applies is made in that certain copyright assignment(s) on the back of the check(s) issued by Marvel Entertainment, LLC's predecessor company to Stephen J. Ditko with respect to the above-listed Work, which was

This Notice of Termination also applies to all material authored or co-authored by Stephen J. Ditko (in any and all medium(s), whenever created) that was reasonably associated with "Amazing Fantasy Vol. 1, No. 15," and was registered with the United States Copyright Office and/or published within the termination time window, as defined by 17 U.S.C. § 304(c) and the effective date of this Notice of Termination. This Notice of Termination likewise includes or embodies any character, story element, or indicia reasonably associated with "Amazing Fantasy Vol. 1, No. 15," including, without limitation, Spider-Man (a.k.a. Peter Parker), Bluebird (a.k.a. Sally Avril), Uncle Ben (Parker), The Burglar, Aunt May (Parker), Liz Allan, Raymond Warren, Bernard O'Brien, Seymour O'Reilly, Jessica Jones, Eric Schwinner, Crusher Hogan, Max Shiffman, Chet Huntley, Baxter Bigelow, and Flash Thompson. Every reasonable effort has been made to find and list herein all such material. Nevertheless, if any such material has been omitted, such omission is unintentional and involuntary, and this Notice also applies to each and every such omitted material.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 201.10(b)(1)(iii), this Notice of Termination includes the name of at least one author of the Work to which this Notice of Termination applies. The listing herein of any corporation as copyright claimant is done per Copyright Office records, and is not to be construed as an admission that any given work is or was a "work made for hire," nor is anything else herein to be construed as any such admission. Nothing contained in this Notice of Termination shall be construed to in any way limit or waive any right or remedy that Patrick S. Ditko, as Administrator of the Estate of Stephen J. Ditko, might have, at law or in equity, with respect to the subject matter hereof, all of which is hereby expressly reserved.

dated on or about the time of the respective publication of such Work.<sup>3</sup>

- 4. The effective date of termination shall be May 29, 2023.
- 5. Stephen J. Ditko died on June 29, 2018, with no surviving spouse, children or grandchildren. As such, Patrick S. Ditko, as Administrator of the Estate of Stephen J. Ditko, owns the termination interest of Stephen J. Ditko pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 304(c)(2)(D), and is the person entitled to exercise the termination right as to the grant(s) identified herein. This Notice has been signed by all persons needed to terminate said grant(s) under 17 U.S.C. § 304(c).

Dated: May 28, 2021

TOBEROFF & ASSOCIATES, P.C.

Marc Toberoff

23823 Malibu Road, Suite 50-363 Malibu, California 90265

Tel: (310) 246-3333

As counsel for and on behalf of Patrick S. Ditko, Administrator of the Estate of Stephen J. Ditko

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> This Notice of Termination also applies to each and every grant or alleged grant by Stephen J. Ditko of rights under copyright in and to the Work that falls within the applicable termination time window (defined by 17 U.S.C. § 304(c) and the effective date of this Notice of Termination). Every reasonable effort has been made to find and list herein every such grant and/or transfer. Nevertheless, if any such grant and/or transfer has been omitted, such omission is unintentional and involuntary, and this Notice of Termination applies as well to each and every such omitted grant and/or transfer.

#### CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I caused a true copy of the foregoing document described as NOTICE OF TERMINATION to be served this 28th day of May, 2021, by First Class Mail, postage prepaid, upon each of the following:

Marvel Entertainment, LLC Marvel Worldwide, Inc. Marvel Property, Inc. Marvel Characters, Inc. 1290 Avenue of the Americas New York, NY 10104 Attn: John Turitzin, Chief Counsel

Eli Bard, Deputy Chief Counsel

The Walt Disney Company 500 South Buena Vista Street Burbank, CA 91521

Attn: Alan Braverman, General Counsel

Marvel Studios, LLC MVL Rights, LLC MVL Development, LLC Marvel Characters, Inc. 500 South Buena Vista Street Burbank, CA 91521 Attn: David Galluzzi, Chief Counsel

Marvel Animation Inc. 623 Circle Seven Drive Glendale, CA 91201 Attn: Legal Department

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed this 28th day of May, 2021, at Malibu, California.

Breck Kadaba

Toberoff & Associates, P.C. 23823 Malibu Road, Suite 50-363 Malibu, California 90265

Counsel for Patrick S. Ditko. Administrator of the Estate of Stephen J. Ditko

#### NOTICE OF TERMINATION

### RECEIVED JUN 05 2021

#### "SPIDER-MAN!"

**ALAN BRAVERMAN** 

To: Marvel Entertainment, LLC Marvel Worldwide, Inc. Marvel Property, Inc. Marvel Characters, Inc. 1290 Avenue of the Americas New York, NY 10104

Attn: John Turitzin, Chief Counsel Eli Bard, Deputy Chief Counsel

500 South Buena Vista Street Burbank, CA 91521 Attn: Alan Braverman, General Counsel

The Walt Disney Company

Marvel Studios, LLC MVL Rights, LLC MVL Development, LLC Marvel Characters, Inc. 500 South Buena Vista Street Burbank, CA 91521

Attn: David Galluzzi, Chief Counsel

Marvel Animation Inc. 623 Circle Seven Drive Glendale, CA 91201 Attn: Legal Department

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to Section 304(c) of the United States Copyright Act (17 U.S.C. § 304(c)) and the regulations issued thereunder by the Register of Copyrights, 37 C.F.R. § 201.10, Patrick S. Ditko, Administrator of the Estate of Stephen J. Ditko, being the person entitled to terminate copyright transfers pursuant to said statutory provisions, hereby terminates all pre-January 1, 1978 exclusive or non-exclusive grants of the transfer or license of the renewal copyright(s) in and to the illustrated comic book story entitled "Spider-Man!," which was authored or co-authored by Stephen J. Ditko (a.k.a. Steve Ditko) and published in *Amazing Fantasy* Vol. 1, No. 15, and sets forth in connection therewith the following:

The names and addresses of the grantees and/or successors in title whose rights are 1. being terminated are as follows: Marvel Entertainment, LLC, Marvel Worldwide, Inc., Marvel Property, Inc., Marvel Characters, Inc., 1290 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10104; Marvel Studios, LLC, MVL Rights, LLC, MVL Development, LLC, Marvel Characters, Inc., 500 South Buena Vista Street, Burbank, CA 91521; The Walt Disney Company, 500 South Buena Vista Street, Burbank, CA 91521; and Marvel Animation Inc., 623 Circle Seven Drive, Glendale, CA 91201. Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. Section 201.10(d), service of this notice is being made by First Class Mail, postage pre-paid to the above grantees or successors at the addresses shown.

- 2. The copyrighted work (the "Work") to which this Notice of Termination applies is the illustrated two-part comic book story entitled "Spider-Man!," authored or co-authored by Stephen J. Ditko (a.k.a. Steve Ditko)<sup>1</sup> and published and embodied in *Amazing Fantasy* Vol. 1, No. 15, (and includes this issue's cover page), which issue was registered with the U.S. Copyright Office by Atlas Magazines, Inc. on June 5, 1962 under Copyright Registration No. B976775, renewed on November 20, 1990 under Copyright Renewal Registration No. RE0000497761, and includes all the characters, story elements, and/or indicia appearing therein.<sup>2</sup>
- 3. The grant and/or transfer to which this Notice of Termination applies is made in that certain copyright assignment(s) on the back of the check(s) issued by Marvel Entertainment, LLC's predecessor company to Stephen J. Ditko with respect to the above-listed Work, which was

This Notice of Termination also applies to all material authored or co-authored by Stephen J. Ditko (in any and all medium(s), whenever created) that was reasonably associated with the Work and was registered with the United States Copyright Office and/or published within the termination time window, as defined by 17 U.S.C. § 304(c) and the effective date of this Notice of Termination. This Notice of Termination likewise includes any character, story element, or indicia reasonably associated with the Work, including, without limitation, Spider-Man (a.k.a. Peter Parker), Bluebird (a.k.a. Sally Avril), Uncle Ben (Parker), The Burglar, Aunt May (Parker), Liz Allan, Raymond Warren, Bernard O'Brien, Seymour O'Reilly, Jessica Jones, Eric Schwinner, Crusher Hogan, Max Shiffman, Chet Huntley, Baxter Bigelow, and Flash Thompson. Every reasonable effort has been made to find and list herein all such material. Nevertheless, if any such material has been omitted, such omission is unintentional and involuntary, and this Notice also applies to each and every such omitted material.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 201.10(b)(1)(iii), this Notice of Termination includes the name of at least one author of the Work to which this Notice of Termination applies. The listing herein of any corporation as copyright claimant is done per Copyright Office records, and is not to be construed as an admission that any given work is or was a "work made for hire," nor is anything else herein to be construed as any such admission. Nothing contained in this Notice of Termination shall be construed to in any way limit or waive any right or remedy that Patrick S. Ditko, as Administrator of the Estate of Stephen J. Ditko, might have, at law or in equity, with respect to the subject matter hereof, all of which is hereby expressly reserved.

dated on or about the time of the respective publication of such Work.<sup>3</sup>

- 4. The effective date of termination shall be June 2, 2023.
- 5. Stephen J. Ditko died on June 29, 2018, with no surviving spouse, children or grandchildren. As such, Patrick S. Ditko, as Administrator of the Estate of Stephen J. Ditko, owns the termination interest of Stephen J. Ditko pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 304(c)(2)(D), and is the person entitled to exercise the termination right as to the grant(s) identified herein. This Notice has been signed by all persons needed to terminate said grant(s) under 17 U.S.C. § 304(c).

Dated: June 1, 2021

TOBEROFF & ASSOCIATES, P.C.

Marc Toberoff

23823 Malibu Road, Suite 50-363 Malibu, California 90265

Tel: (310) 246-3333

As counsel for and on behalf of Patrick S. Ditko, Administrator of the Estate of Stephen J. Ditko

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> This Notice of Termination also applies to each and every grant or alleged grant by Stephen J. Ditko of rights under copyright in and to the Work that falls within the applicable termination time window (defined by 17 U.S.C. § 304(c) and the effective date of this Notice of Termination). Every reasonable effort has been made to find and list herein every such grant and/or transfer. Nevertheless, if any such grant and/or transfer has been omitted, such omission is unintentional and involuntary, and this Notice of Termination applies as well to each and every such omitted grant and/or transfer.

#### CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I caused a true copy of the foregoing document described as NOTICE OF TERMINATION to be served this 1st day of June, 2021, by First Class Mail, postage prepaid, upon each of the following:

Marvel Entertainment, LLC Marvel Worldwide, Inc. Marvel Property, Inc. Marvel Characters, Inc. 1290 Avenue of the Americas New York, NY 10104 Attn: John Turitzin, Chief Counsel

Eli Bard, Deputy Chief Counsel

The Walt Disney Company 500 South Buena Vista Street Burbank, CA 91521 Attn: Alan Braverman, General Counsel

Marvel Studios, LLC MVL Rights, LLC MVL Development, LLC Marvel Characters, Inc. 500 South Buena Vista Street Burbank, CA 91521 Attn: David Galluzzi, Chief Counsel

Marvel Animation Inc. 623 Circle Seven Drive Glendale, CA 91201 Attn: Legal Department

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed this 1st day of June, 2021, at Malibu, California.

Breck Kadaba

Toberoff & Associates, P.C.

23823 Malibu Road, Suite 50-363

Malibu, California 90265

Counsel for Patrick S. Ditko, Administrator of the Estate of Stephen J. Ditko

JUN 1 5 2021

#### NOTICE OF TERMINATION

### ALAN BRAVERMAN

#### "DOCTOR STRANGE"

To: Marvel Entertainment, LLC
Marvel Worldwide, Inc.
Marvel Property, Inc.
Marvel Characters, Inc.
1290 Avenue of the Americas
New York, NY 10104
Attn: John Turitzin, Chief Counsel
Eli Bard, Deputy Chief Counsel

The Walt Disney Company 500 South Buena Vista Street Burbank, CA 91521 Attn: Alan Braverman, General Counsel Marvel Studios, LLC
MVL Rights, LLC
MVL Development, LLC
Marvel Characters, Inc.
500 South Buena Vista Street
Burbank, CA 91521
Attn: David Galluzzi, Chief Counsel

Marvel Animation Inc. 623 Circle Seven Drive Glendale, CA 91201 Attn: Legal Department

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to Section 304(c) of the United States Copyright Act (17 U.S.C. § 304(c)) and the regulations issued thereunder by the Register of Copyrights, 37 C.F.R. § 201.10, Patrick S. Ditko, Administrator of the Estate of Stephen J. Ditko, being the person entitled to terminate copyright transfers pursuant to said statutory provisions, hereby terminates all pre-January 1, 1978 exclusive or non-exclusive grants of the transfer or license of the renewal copyright(s) in and to the five-page, penciled story (with a page/panel script), authored by Stephen J. Ditko, and the illustrated comic book story based thereon entitled "Doctor Strange Master of Black Magic!," authored or co-authored by Stephen J. Ditko (a.k.a. Steve Ditko), and published in *Strange Tales* Vol. 1, No. 110, and sets forth in connection therewith the following:

1. The names and addresses of the grantees and/or successors in title whose rights are being terminated are as follows: Marvel Entertainment, LLC, Marvel Worldwide, Inc., Marvel Property, Inc., Marvel Characters, Inc., 1290 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10104; Marvel Studios, LLC, MVL Rights, LLC, MVL Development, LLC, Marvel Characters, Inc., 500

South Buena Vista Street, Burbank, CA 91521; The Walt Disney Company, 500 South Buena Vista Street, Burbank, CA 91521; and Marvel Animation Inc., 623 Circle Seven Drive, Glendale, CA 91201. Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 201.10(d), service of this notice is being made by First Class Mail, postage pre-paid to the above grantees or successors at the addresses shown.

- 2. The copyrighted work(s) (the "Work(s)") to which this Notice of Termination applies are the five-page, penciled story (with a page/panel script), authored by Stephen J. Ditko, and the illustrated comic book story based thereon entitled "Doctor Strange Master of Black Magic!," which was authored or co-authored by Stephen J. Ditko (a.k.a. Steve Ditko), and the Work(s) include all of the characters, story elements, and/or indicia appearing therein. The Work(s) were published and embodied in *Strange Tales* Vol. 1, No. 110, which was registered with the U.S. Copyright Office by Vista Publications, Inc. on April 9, 1963, under Copyright Registration No. B34036, and renewed on December 27, 1991, under Copyright Renewal Registration No. RE0000559192.
- 3. The grant(s) and/or transfer(s) to which this Notice of Termination applies is (are) made in that/those certain copyright assignment(s) on the back of the check(s) issued by Marvel

This Notice of Termination also applies to all material authored or co-authored by Stephen J. Ditko (in any and all medium(s), whenever created) that was reasonably associated with the Work(s) and was registered with the United States Copyright Office and/or published within the termination time window, as defined by 17 U.S.C. § 304(c), and the effective date of this Notice of Termination. This Notice of Termination likewise includes any character, story element, or indicia reasonably associated with the Work(s) including, without limitation, Doctor Strange (a.k.a. Stephen Strange), Wong, the Ancient One (a.k.a. the Master, a.k.a. Yao), Nightmare, Crang and Dreamstalker. Every reasonable effort has been made to find and list herein all such material. Nevertheless, if any such material has been omitted, such omission is unintentional and involuntary, and this Notice also applies to each and every such omitted material.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 201.10(b)(1)(iii), this Notice of Termination includes the name of at least one author of the Work(s) to which this Notice of Termination applies. The listing herein of any corporation as copyright claimant is done per Copyright Office records, and is not to be construed as an admission that any given work is or was a "work made for hire," nor is anything else herein to be construed as any such admission. Nothing contained in this Notice of Termination shall be construed to in any way limit or waive any right or remedy that Patrick S. Ditko, as Administrator of the Estate of Stephen J. Ditko, may have, at law or in equity, with respect to the subject matter hereof, all of which is hereby expressly reserved.

Entertainment, LLC's predecessor company to Stephen J. Ditko, regarding the above-listed Work(s), which was (were) dated on or about the time of the publication of such Work(s).<sup>3</sup>

- 4. The effective date of termination shall be June 9, 2023.
- 5. Stephen J. Ditko died on June 29, 2018, with no surviving spouse, children or grandchildren. Patrick S. Ditko, as Administrator of the Estate of Stephen J. Ditko, owns the termination interest of Stephen J. Ditko pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 304(c)(2)(D), and is the person entitled to exercise the termination right as to the grant(s) identified herein. This Notice has been signed by all persons needed to terminate said grant(s) under 17 U.S.C. § 304(c).

Dated: June 8, 2021

TOBEROFF & ASSOCIATES, P.C.

Marc Toberoff

23823 Malibu Road, Suite 50-363 Malibu, California 90265

Tel: (310) 246-3333

As counsel for and on behalf of Patrick S. Ditko, Administrator of the Estate of Stephen J. Ditko

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> This Notice of Termination also applies to each and every grant or alleged grant by Stephen J. Ditko of rights under copyright in and to the Work(s) that falls within the applicable termination time window (defined by 17 U.S.C. § 304(c) and the effective date of this Notice of Termination). Every reasonable effort has been made to find and list herein every such grant and/or transfer. Nevertheless, if any such grant and/or transfer has been omitted, such omission is unintentional and involuntary, and this Notice of Termination applies as well to each and every such omitted grant and/or transfer.

RECEIVED

#### NOTICE OF TERMINATION

JUL 20 2021

#### "DOCTOR STRANGE"

ALAN BRAVERMAN

To: Marvel Entertainment, LLC
Marvel Worldwide, Inc.
Marvel Property, Inc.
Marvel Characters, Inc.
1290 Avenue of the Americas
New York, NY 10104

Attn: John Turitzin, Chief Counsel Eli Bard, Deputy Chief Counsel

The Walt Disney Company
500 South Buena Vista Street
Burbank, CA 91521

Attn: Alan Braverman, General Counsel

Marvel Studios, LLC
MVL Rights, LLC
MVL Development, LLC
Marvel Characters, Inc.
500 South Buena Vista Street
Burbank, CA 91521
Attn: David Galluzzi, Chief Counsel

Marvel Animation Inc. 623 Circle Seven Drive Glendale, CA 91201 Attn: Legal Department

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to Section 304(c) of the United States Copyright Act (17 U.S.C. § 304(c)) and the regulations issued thereunder by the Register of Copyrights, 37 C.F.R. § 201.10, Patrick S. Ditko, Administrator of the Estate of author Stephen J. Ditko, being the person entitled to terminate copyright transfers by the author pursuant to said statutory provisions, hereby terminates all pre-January 1, 1978 exclusive or non-exclusive grants of the transfer or license of the renewal copyright(s) in and to the illustrated comic book stories, many of which feature the character Doctor Strange (a.k.a. Dr. Stephen Strange), authored or co-authored by Stephen J. Ditko (a.k.a. Steve Ditko), and published in the STRANGE TALES comic book issues, all as set forth below:

1. The names and addresses of the grantees and/or successors in title whose rights are being terminated are as follows: Marvel Entertainment, LLC, Marvel Worldwide, Inc., Marvel Property, Inc., Marvel Characters, Inc., 1290 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10104; Marvel Studios, LLC, MVL Rights, LLC, MVL Development, LLC, Marvel Characters, Inc., 500

South Buena Vista Street, Burbank, CA 91521; The Walt Disney Company, 500 South Buena Vista Street, Burbank, CA 91521; and Marvel Animation Inc., 623 Circle Seven Drive, Glendale, CA 91201. Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. Section 201.10(d), service of this Notice is being made by First Class Mail, postage pre-paid to the above grantees or successors at the addresses shown.

2. The copyrighted work(s) to which this Notice of Termination applies (individually, "Work"; collectively, the "Works") are the illustrated comic book stor(ies), many of which feature the character Doctor Strange (a.k.a. Dr. Stephen Strange), authored or co-authored by Stephen J. Ditko (a.k.a. Steve Ditko)<sup>1</sup> along with all the characters, story elements, and/or indicia appearing therein, which stories were published and embodied in the comic book issues identified as follows:

Title	Copyright Claimant <sup>2</sup>	Date Copyright Secured	Copyright Reg. No.
Strange Tales Vol. 1, No. 102	Vista Publications, Inc.	8/9/1962	B988507
Strange Tales Vol. 1, No. 103	Vista Publications, Inc.	9/11/1962	B992202
Strange Tales Vol. 1, No. 104	Vista Publications, Inc.	10/9/1962	B999792

This Notice of Termination also applies to all material authored or co-authored by Stephen J. Ditko (in any and all medium(s), whenever created) that was reasonably associated with these Works and was registered with the United States Copyright Office and/or published within the termination time window, as defined by 17 U.S.C. § 304(c) and the effective date of this Notice of Termination. This Notice of Termination likewise includes any character, story element, or indicia reasonably associated with these Works, including, without limitation, Zakkim, Doctor Strange (a.k.a. Dr. Stephen Strange), Ancient One (a.k.a. Yao), Baron Mordo (a.k.a. Karl Mordo), Hamir, Karl King, Harry Hook, Victoria Bentley, Sir Clive Bentley, Wong, Nightmare, Dreamstalker, Spinybeast, Aggamon, Bill Brinkly, Allan Stevens, Gulgol, Thor, Loki, Odin, Zota of Pergamum, Hamir the Hermit, Baron Mordo's Minions, Clea, G'uranthic Guardian, Dormammu, Orini, Demonicus, Tiboro, Sen-Yu, Kaecilius, Nazaka, Shazana, Ubbu, Sir Anthony Baskerville, Aged Genghis, The Demon of the Mask, Rama Kaliph, Abu Ben Hakim, Eternity, the Mindless Ones, Adria (a.k.a. The Witch), Tazza, Asti the All-Seeing, Mister Rasputin (a.k.a. Pavel Plotnick), Kaluu, and Hiram Barney. Every reasonable effort has been made to find and list herein all such material. Nevertheless, if any such material has been omitted, such omission is unintentional and involuntary, and this Notice also applies to each and every such omitted material.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 201.10(b)(1)(iii), this Notice of Termination includes the name of at least one author of each Work to which this Notice of Termination applies. The listing herein of any corporation as copyright claimant is done per Copyright Office records, and is not to be construed as an admission that any given work is or was a "work made for hire," nor is anything else herein to be construed as any such admission. Nothing contained in this Notice of Termination shall be construed to in any way limit or waive any right or remedy that Patrick S. Ditko, as Administrator of the Estate of Stephen J. Ditko, may have, at law or in equity, with respect to the subject matter hereof, all of which is hereby expressly reserved.

Stugger Tales Vol. 1 No. 105	Viete B. Hierti	11/0/10/0	D.C025
Strange Tales Vol. 1, No. 105	Vista Publications, Inc.	11/8/1962	B6037
Strange Tales Vol. 1, No. 106	Vista Publications, Inc.	12/10/1962	B12120
Strange Tales Vol. 1, No. 107	Vista Publications, Inc.	1/10/1963	B17484
Strange Tales Vol. 1, No. 108	Vista Publications, Inc.	2/12/1963	B22022
Strange Tales Vol. 1, No. 109	Vista Publications, Inc.	3/12/1963	B28143
Strange Tales Vol. 1, No. 111	Vista Publications, Inc.	5/9/1963	B38264
Strange Tales Vol. 1, No. 112	Vista Publications, Inc.	6/11/1963	B45565
Strange Tales Vol. 1, No. 113	Vista Publications, Inc.	7/9/1963	B51854
Strange Tales Vol. 1, No. 114	Vista Publications, Inc.	8/8/1963	B57888
Strange Tales Vol. 1, No. 115	Vista Publications, Inc.	9/10/1963	B66036
Strange Tales Vol. 1, No. 116	Vista Publications, Inc.	10/8/1963	B66782
Strange Tales Vol. 1, No. 117	Vista Publications, Inc.	11/12/1963	B72341
Strange Tales Vol. 1, No. 118	Vista Publications, Inc.	12/9/1963	B79628
Strange Tales Vol. 1, No. 119	Vista Publications, Inc.	1/10/1964	B86103
Strange Tales Vol. 1, No. 120	Vista Publications, Inc.	2/11/1964	B93261
Strange Tales Vol. 1, No. 121	Vista Publications, Inc.	3/10/1964	B96828
Strange Tales Vol. 1, No. 122	Vista Publications, Inc.	4/9/1964	B102931
Strange Tales Vol. 1, No. 123	Vista Publications, Inc.	5/12/1964	B112132
Strange Tales Vol. 1, No. 124	Vista Publications, Inc.	6/9/1964	B127512
Strange Tales Vol. 1, No. 125	Vista Publications, Inc.	7/9/1964	B121798
Strange Tales Vol. 1, No. 126	Vista Publications, Inc.	8/11/1964	B129014
Strange Tales Vol. 1, No. 127	Vista Publications, Inc.	9/8/1964	B136445
Strange Tales Vol. 1, No. 128	Vista Publications, Inc.	10/8/1964	B140634
Strange Tales Vol. 1, No. 129	Vista Publications, Inc.	11/10/1964	B147181
Strange Tales Vol. 1, No. 130	Vista Publications, Inc.	12/10/1964	B157772
Strange Tales Vol. 1, No. 131	Vista Publications, Inc.	1/12/1965	B162016
Strange Tales Vol. 1, No. 132	Vista Publications, Inc.	2/11/1965	B167564
Strange Tales Vol. 1, No. 133	Vista Publications, Inc.	3/11/1965	B173315
Strange Tales Vol. 1, No. 134	Vista Publications, Inc.	4/8/1965	B179809
Strange Tales Vol. 1, No. 135	Vista Publications, Inc.	5/4/1965	B190436
Strange Tales Vol. 1, No. 136	Vista Publications, Inc.	6/8/1965	B196229
Strange Tales Vol. 1, No. 137	Vista Publications, Inc.	7/8/1965	B200686
Strange Tales Vol. 1, No. 138	Vista Publications, Inc.	8/10/1965	B208272
Strange Tales Vol. 1, No. 139	Vista Publications, Inc.	9/9/1965	B215981
Strange Tales Vol. 1, No. 140	Vista Publications, Inc.	10/12/1965	B229414
Strange Tales Vol. 1, No. 141	Vista Publications, Inc.	11/11/1965	B229431
Strange Tales Vol. 1, No. 142	Vista Publications, Inc.	12/9/1965	B238352
Strange Tales Vol. 1, No. 143	Vista Publications, Inc.	1/11/1966	B241519
Strange Tales Vol. 1, No. 144		2/10/1966	B248225
Sir unge 1 unes Vol. 1, 110. 144	Vista Publications, Inc.		
Strange Tales Vol. 1, No. 145	Vista Publications, Inc. Vista Publications, Inc.		
	Vista Publications, Inc. Vista Publications, Inc. Vista Publications, Inc.	3/10/1966 4/12/1966	B251650 B257744

3. The express or implied grant(s) and/or transfer(s) to which this Notice of

Termination applies was (were) made in that (those) certain copyright assignment(s) on the back of the check(s) issued by Marvel Entertainment, LLC's ("Marvel") predecessor company(ies) to Stephen J. Ditko, with respect to the above-listed Works, which was (were) dated on or about the time of the respective publication of such Works, as well as any other grant(s) regarding the Works by Stephen J. Ditko to Marvel's predecessor(s).<sup>3</sup>

- 4. The effective date of termination for each respective Work shall be July 17, 2023.
- 5. Stephen J. Ditko died on June 29, 2018, with no surviving spouse, children or grandchildren. Patrick S. Ditko, as Administrator of the Estate of Stephen J. Ditko, owns the termination interest of Stephen J. Ditko pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 304(c)(2)(D), and is the person entitled to exercise the termination right as to the grant(s) identified herein. This Notice has been signed by all persons needed to terminate said grant(s) under 17 U.S.C. § 304(c).

Dated: July 16, 2021

TOBEROFF & ASSOCIATES, P.C.

Marc Toberoff

23823 Malibu Road, Suite 50-363

Malibu, California 90265

Tel: (310) 246-3333

As counsel for and on behalf of Patrick S. Ditko, Administrator of the Estate of Stephen J. Ditko

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> This Notice of Termination also applies to each and every grant or alleged grant by Stephen J. Ditko of rights under copyright in and to the Works that falls within the applicable termination time window (defined by 17 U.S.C. § 304(c) and the effective date of this Notice of Termination). Every reasonable effort has been made to find and list herein every such grant and/or transfer. Nevertheless, if any such grant and/or transfer has been omitted, such omission is unintentional and involuntary, and this Notice of Termination applies as well to each and every such omitted grant and/or transfer.

#### CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I caused a true copy of the foregoing document described as NOTICE OF TERMINATION to be served this 16th day of July, 2021, by First Class Mail, postage prepaid, upon each of the following:

Marvel Entertainment, LLC Marvel Worldwide, Inc. Marvel Property, Inc. Marvel Characters, Inc. 1290 Avenue of the Americas New York, NY 10104 Attn: John Turitzin, Chief Counsel

Eli Bard, Deputy Chief Counsel

The Walt Disney Company 500 South Buena Vista Street Burbank, CA 91521 Attn: Alan Braverman, General Counsel Marvel Studios, LLC MVL Rights, LLC MVL Development, LLC Marvel Characters, Inc. 500 South Buena Vista Street Burbank, CA 91521 Attn: David Galluzzi, Chief Counsel

Marvel Animation Inc. 623 Circle Seven Drive Glendale, CA 91201 Attn: Legal Department

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed this 16th day of July, 2021, at Malibu, California.

Breck Kadaba

Toberoff & Associates, P.C. 23823 Malibu Road, Suite 50-363

Malibu, California 90265

Counsel for Patrick S. Ditko, Administrator of the Estate of Stephen J. Ditko

RECEIVED

### JUL 20 2021

#### NOTICE OF TERMINATION

#### "SPIDER-MAN"

ALAN BRAVERMAN

To: Marvel Entertainment, LLC
Marvel Worldwide, Inc.
Marvel Property, Inc.
Marvel Characters, Inc.
1290 Avenue of the Americas
New York, NY 10104
Attn: John Turitzin, Chief Counsel

Attn: John Turitzin, Chief Counsel Eli Bard, Deputy Chief Counsel

The Walt Disney Company 500 South Buena Vista Street Burbank, CA 91521 Attn: Alan Braverman, General Counsel Marvel Studios, LLC
MVL Rights, LLC
MVL Development, LLC
Marvel Characters, Inc.
500 South Buena Vista Street
Burbank, CA 91521
Attn: David Galluzzi, Chief Counsel

Marvel Animation Inc. 623 Circle Seven Drive Glendale, CA 91201 Attn: Legal Department

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to Section 304(c) of the United States Copyright Act (17 U.S.C. § 304(c)) and the regulations issued thereunder by the Register of Copyrights, 37 C.F.R. § 201.10, Patrick S. Ditko, Administrator of the Estate of author Stephen J. Ditko, being the person entitled to terminate copyright transfers by the author pursuant to said statutory provisions, hereby terminates all pre-January 1, 1978 exclusive or non-exclusive grants of the transfer or license of the renewal copyright(s) in and to the illustrated comic book stories, featuring the character Spider-Man (a.k.a. Peter Parker), authored or co-authored by Stephen J. Ditko (a.k.a. Steve Ditko), and published in the respective comic book issues listed in paragraph 2 of this Notice, all as set forth below:

 The names and addresses of the grantees and/or successors in title whose rights are being terminated are as follows: Marvel Entertainment, LLC, Marvel Worldwide, Inc., Marvel Property, Inc., Marvel Characters, Inc., 1290 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10104;
 Marvel Studios, LLC, MVL Rights, LLC, MVL Development, LLC, Marvel Characters, Inc., 500 South Buena Vista Street, Burbank, CA 91521; The Walt Disney Company, 500 South Buena Vista Street, Burbank, CA 91521; and Marvel Animation Inc., 623 Circle Seven Drive, Glendale, CA 91201. Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. Section 201.10(d), service of this Notice is being made by First Class Mail, postage pre-paid to the above grantees or successors at the addresses shown.

2. The copyrighted work(s) to which this Notice of Termination applies (individually, "Work"; collectively, the "Works") are the illustrated comic book stor(ies), featuring the character Spider-Man (a.k.a. Peter Parker), authored or co-authored by Stephen J. Ditko (a.k.a. Steve Ditko)<sup>1</sup> along with all the characters, story elements, and/or indicia appearing therein, which stories were published and embodied in the comic book issues identified as follows:

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> This Notice of Termination also applies to all material authored or co-authored by Stephen J. Ditko (in any and all medium(s), whenever created) that was reasonably associated with these Works and was registered with the United States Copyright Office and/or published within the termination time window, as defined by 17 U.S.C. § 304(c) and the effective date of this Notice of Termination. This Notice of Termination likewise includes any character, story element, or indicia reasonably associated with these Works, including, without limitation, Spider-Man (a.k.a. Peter Parker), Aunt May (Parker, née Reilly), J. Jonah Jameson, The Burglar, John Jameson, Maxie Shiffman, Liz Allan, Sally Avril, Vulture (a.k.a. Adrian Toomes), Eleonore Brant, Flash Thompson (a.k.a. Eugene Thompson, Raymond Warren, Human Torch (a.k.a. Johnny Storm), Doctor Octopus (a.k.a. Otto Octavius), Charles Buchanan, Betty Brant, Sandman (a.k.a. William Baker), Principal Davis, Seymour O'Reilly, Jessica Jones, Doctor Doom (a.k.a. Victor von Doom), Mister Fantastic (a.k.a. Reed Richards), Invisible Girl (a.k.a. Sue Storm), Thing (a.k.a. Ben Grimm), Martha Connors, Billy Connors, The Lizard (a.k.a. Curt Connors), The Living Brain, Charlie Murphy, Dr. Nicholas Bromwell, Electro (a.k.a. Maxwell Dillon), Big Man (a.k.a. Frederick Foswell), Montana (a.k.a. Jackson Brice), Fancy Dan (a.k.a. Daniel Brito), Ox (a.k.a. Raymond Bloch), Blackie Gaxton, Bennett Brant, Mysterio (a.k.a. Quentin Beck), Green Goblin (a.k.a. Norman Osborn), Hulk (a.k.a. Bruce Banner), B.J. Kosmojian, Kraven the Hunter (a.k.a. Sergei Kravinoff), Chameleon (a.k.a. Dmitri Smerdyakov), Anna May Watson, Daredevil (a.k.a. Matt Murdock), Foggy Nelson, Karen Page, Ringmaster, Human Cannonball, the Great Gambonnos, Eliot Franklin (Clown), Bruto the Strongman, Dorrie Evans, Wilson Allan, Ned Leeds, Rocky Roberts, Iron Man (a.k.a. Tony Stark), Captain America (a.k.a. Steve Rogers), Thor, Giant-Man (a.k.a. Hank Pym), Wasp (a.k.a. Janet Van Dyne), Richard Wormly, Scorpion (a.k.a. Mac Gargan), Doctor Farley Stillwell, Beetle (a.k.a. Abner Jenkins), Princess Python (a.k.a. Zelda DuBois), Precious, Lucky Lobo (a.k.a. Francisco Lobo), Spencer Smythe, Spider Slayer (Mark I), Crime Master (a.k.a. Nicholas Lewis, Sr.), Barney Bushkin, Molten Man (a.k.a. Mark Raxton), Cat Burglar, Gwen Stacy, Harry Osborn, Foxy Briggs, Dean Corliss, Prof. Miles Warren, Looter (a.k.a. Norman Fester), Sally Green, Mendel Stromm, Max Young, Joe Smith, Tommy Tomkins, Mary Jane Watson, The Fox (a.k.a. Reynard Slinker), Angel, Beast, Cyclops, Thor, Doctor Strange (a.k.a. Dr. Stephen Strange), Iceman, Professor Charles Xavier, and Xandu. Every reasonable effort has been made to find and list herein all such material. Nevertheless, if any such material has been omitted, such omission is unintentional and involuntary, and this Notice also applies to each and every such omitted material.

Title	Copyright Claimant <sup>2</sup>	Date Copyright Secured	Copyright Reg. No.
Amazing Spider-Man Vol. 1, No. 1	Non-Pareil Publishing Corporation	12/10/1962	B12112
Amazing Spider-Man Vol. 1, No. 2	Non-Pareil Publishing Corporation	2/12/1963	B22020
Amazing Spider-Man Vol. 1, No. 3	Non-Pareil Publishing Corporation	4/9/1963	B32700
Amazing Spider-Man Vol. 1, No. 4	Non-Pareil Publishing Corporation	6/11/1963	B45564
Amazing Spider-Man Vol. 1, No. 5	Non-Pareil Publishing Corporation	7/9/1963	B50165
Amazing Spider-Man Vol. 1, No. 6	Non-Pareil Publishing Corporation	8/8/1963	B57887
Amazing Spider-Man Vol. 1, No. 7	Non-Pareil Publishing Corporation	9/10/1963	B63121
Amazing Spider-Man Vol. 1, No. 8	Non-Pareil Publishing Corporation	10/8/1963	B72284
Amazing Spider-Man Vol. 1, No. 9	Non-Pareil Publishing Corporation	11/12/1963	B72337
Amazing Spider-Man Vol. 1, No. 10	Non-Pareil Publishing Corporation	12/9/1963	B79629
Amazing Spider-Man Vol. 1, No. 11	Non-Pareil Publishing Corporation	1/10/1964	B86108
Amazing Spider-Man Vol. 1, No. 12	Non-Pareil Publishing Corporation	2/11/1964	B93262
Amazing Spider-Man Vol. 1, No. 13	Non-Pareil Publishing Corporation	3/10/1964	B96821
Amazing Spider-Man Vol. 1, No. 14	Non-Pareil Publishing Corporation	4/9/1964	B102930
Amazing Spider-Man Vol. 1, No. 15	Non-Pareil Publishing Corporation	5/12/1964	B112138
Amazing Spider-Man Vol. 1, No. 16	Non-Pareil Publishing Corporation	6/9/1964	B127533
Amazing Spider-Man Vol. 1, No. 17	Non-Pareil Publishing Corporation	7/9/1964	B121808
Amazing Spider-Man Vol. 1, No. 18	Non-Pareil Publishing	8/11/1964	B129017

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 201.10(b)(1)(iii), this Notice of Termination includes the name of at least one author of each Work to which this Notice of Termination applies. The listing herein of any corporation as copyright claimant is done per Copyright Office records, and is not to be construed as an admission that any given work is or was a "work made for hire," nor is anything else herein to be construed as any such admission. Nothing contained in this Notice of Termination shall be construed to in any way limit or waive any right or remedy that Patrick S. Ditko, as Administrator of the Estate of Stephen J. Ditko, may have, at law or in equity, with respect to the subject matter hereof, all of which is hereby expressly reserved.

	Corporation		
Amazing Spider-Man Vol. 1, No. 19	Non-Pareil Publishing Corporation	9/8/1964	B136435
Amazing Spider-Man Vol. 1, No. 20	Non-Pareil Publishing Corporation	10/8/1964	B140632
Amazing Spider-Man Vol. 1, No. 21	Non-Pareil Publishing Corporation	11/10/1964	B147192
Amazing Spider-Man Vol. 1, No. 22	Non-Pareil Publishing Corporation	12/10/1964	B157768
Amazing Spider-Man Vol. 1, No. 23	Non-Pareil Publishing Corporation	1/12/1965	B162019
Amazing Spider-Man Vol. 1, No. 24	Non-Pareil Publishing Corporation	2/11/1965	B167575
Amazing Spider-Man Vol. 1, No. 25	Non-Pareil Publishing Corporation	3/11/1965	B173323
Amazing Spider-Man Vol. 1, No. 26	Non-Pareil Publishing Corporation	4/8/1965	B179808
Amazing Spider-Man Vol. 1, No. 27	Non-Pareil Publishing Corporation	5/11/1965	B190434
Amazing Spider-Man Vol. 1, No. 28	Non-Pareil Publishing Corporation	6/8/1965	B196230
Amazing Spider-Man Vol. 1, No. 29	Non-Pareil Publishing Corporation	7/8/1965	B200698
Amazing Spider-Man Vol. 1, No. 30	Non-Pareil Publishing Corporation	8/10/1965	B208267
Amazing Spider-Man Vol. 1, No. 31	Non-Pareil Publishing Corporation	9/9/1965	B215968
Amazing Spider-Man Vol. 1, No. 32	Non-Pareil Publishing Corporation	10/12/1965	B229417
Amazing Spider-Man Vol. 1, No. 33	Non-Pareil Publishing Corporation	11/11/1965	B229427
Amazing Spider-Man Vol. 1, No. 34	Non-Pareil Publishing Corporation	12/9/1965	B238351
Amazing Spider-Man Vol. 1, No. 35	Non-Pareil Publishing Corporation	1/11/1966	B241516
Amazing Spider-Man Vol. 1, No. 36	Non-Pareil Publishing Corporation	2/10/1966	B248224
Amazing Spider-Man Vol. 1, No. 37	Non-Pareil Publishing Corporation	3/10/1966	B251737
Amazing Spider-Man Vol. 1, No. 38	Non-Pareil Publishing Corporation	4/12/1966	B257745
The Fantastic Four Annual Vol. 1, No. 1	Canam Publishers Sales Corporation	7/2/1963	A645698
Strange Tales Annual Vol. 1, No. 2 Amazing Spider-Man Annual Vol. 1, No. 1	Vista Publications, Inc. Non-Pareil Publishing Corporation	6/11/1963 6/11/1964	A640416 A713458

Amazing Spider-Man Annual	Non-Pareil Publishing	6/1/1965	A772745
Vol. 1, No. 2	Corporation		

- 3. The express or implied grant(s) and/or transfer(s) to which this Notice of Termination applies was (were) made in that (those) certain copyright assignment(s) on the back of the check(s) issued by Marvel Entertainment, LLC's ("Marvel") predecessor company(ies) to Stephen J. Ditko, with respect to the above-listed Works, which was (were) dated on or about the time of the respective publication of such Works, as well as any other grant(s) regarding the Works by Stephen J. Ditko to Marvel's predecessor(s).<sup>3</sup>
  - 4. The effective date of termination for each respective Work shall be July 17, 2023.
- 5. Stephen J. Ditko died on June 29, 2018, with no surviving spouse, children or grandchildren. Patrick S. Ditko, as Administrator of the Estate of Stephen J. Ditko, owns the termination interest of Stephen J. Ditko pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 304(c)(2)(D), and is the person entitled to exercise the termination right as to the grant(s) identified herein. This Notice has been signed by all persons needed to terminate said grant(s) under 17 U.S.C. § 304(c).

Dated: July 16, 2021 TOBEROFF & ASSOCIATES, P.C.

Marc Toberoff

23823 Malibu Road, Suite 50-363 Malibu, California 90265

Tel: (310) 246-3333

As counsel for and on behalf of Patrick S. Ditko, Administrator of the Estate of Stephen J. Ditko

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> This Notice of Termination also applies to each and every grant or alleged grant by Stephen J. Ditko of rights under copyright in and to the Works that falls within the applicable termination time window (defined by 17 U.S.C. § 304(c) and the effective date of this Notice of Termination). Every reasonable effort has been made to find and list herein every such grant and/or transfer. Nevertheless, if any such grant and/or transfer has been omitted, such omission is unintentional and involuntary, and this Notice of Termination applies as well to each and every such omitted grant and/or transfer.

#### CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I caused a true copy of the foregoing document described as NOTICE OF TERMINATION to be served this 16th day of July, 2021, by First Class Mail, postage prepaid, upon each of the following:

Marvel Entertainment, LLC Marvel Worldwide, Inc. Marvel Property, Inc. Marvel Characters, Inc. 1290 Avenue of the Americas New York, NY 10104 Attn: John Turitzin, Chief Counsel

Eli Bard, Deputy Chief Counsel

The Walt Disney Company 500 South Buena Vista Street Burbank, CA 91521 Attn: Alan Braverman, General Counsel

Marvel Studios, LLC MVL Rights, LLC MVL Development, LLC Marvel Characters, Inc. 500 South Buena Vista Street Burbank, CA 91521 Attn: David Galluzzi, Chief Counsel

Marvel Animation Inc. 623 Circle Seven Drive Glendale, CA 91201 Attn: Legal Department

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed this 16th day of July, 2021, at Malibu, California.

Breck Kadaba

Toberoff & Associates, P.C. 23823 Malibu Road, Suite 50-363 Malibu, California 90265

Counsel for Patrick S. Ditko, Administrator of the Estate of Stephen J. Ditko